

**CITY OF FRESNO  
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
City Hall, First Floor – Room 1031**

**APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2013 MEETING**

DAC Commission Members Present: Michelle Bronson (Chair), Jenelle Pitt (Vice-Chair), Frances Reyes Acosta, William Dailey, Mary Beth Randall, Carlos Duarte (ex officio)

DAC Commission Members Absent: Joanna Pilibosian

DAC Secretary: Shannon M. Simonelli, ADA Coordinator

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**Call to Order**

Chair Bronson called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Self introductions were made.

**Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2012 and December 11, 2012**

Member Randall moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2012 and December 11, 2012. Member Reyes Acosta Seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Member Reports and Comments**

There were no member reports or comments.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Simonelli shared that member Robert Hand has resigned from the commission. The Mayor has appointed Heather Flores, Director of Case Management at Central Valley Regional Center; the appointment is scheduled to be confirmed by council in the coming weeks. She will be joining the Commission officially in February.

The Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/disabilityadvisorycommission](http://www.facebook.com/disabilityadvisorycommission) is continuing to grow.

Secretary Simonelli is in the process of developing a single page flier and a brochure with the 2013 meeting dates. The flier is available at the back of the room and the brochure should be printed in the next week or two and available at the next meeting. These brochures will be available for commissioners to use to promote DAC and will also be placed on the Handy Ride buses and throughout the City of Fresno.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2013, 10am -11:30am at the City Hall Council Chambers.

### **Unscheduled Communication**

Daniel Delgado, owner of International Medical Equipment expressed concern that Handy Ride services are not available to Valley Children Hospital. He also expressed concern that he has seen throughout the valley that people with handicap parking placards park in no parking zones.

### **Presentation: City of Fresno Office of Emergency Management**

Former Emergency Preparedness Officer Sean Johnson thanked the commission for their collaborative work with him over the past two years. Johnson explained that the City's emergency management system is coordinated through the City Manager's Office rather than the Fire Department and introduced the new City of Fresno Emergency Manager Beth Brown. Brown was formerly an emergency manager in the Washington DC area and is the wife of the current Fire Chief Rob Brown.

Brown thanked for the amount of work that Johnson has done during his tenure, noting that she has never see this level of community involvement in City emergency management in any other locality. Brown expressed the intention to continue to work with the Commission.

Chair Bronson thanked Brown and Johnson for their service and echoed her pleasure at the level of community involvement of the emergency management of the City.

Secretary Simonelli stated that she and Brown are working on reconvening the City's Shelter and Mass Care Work Group. Those that are interested in providing

input on the City's Shelter and Mass Care plans should contact Simonelli to be added to the group.

**Presentation: A Ticket to Success**

Rebeca DeLeon and Jackie Smith of Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) presented on the Ticket to Success program, which is housed in Fresno at the Manchester Center. The program is an approved Employment network for the Ticket to Work program offered by the Social Security to help beneficiaries return to work and is an alternative to Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Services.

Member Reyes Acosta praised the program, and noted that she is a former client.

Member Duarte asked if they are a contractor of or work for Social Security. DeLeon responded that TCOE contracts with social security.

Vice-Chair Pitt asked if the program works with interns. Smith responded that they don't normally offer internships, however the Regional Coordinator Linda Patina can be contacted with questions.

Chair Bronson asked if they work with the Deaf and Hard of hearing and use interpreters. DeLeon and Smith responded in the affirmative.

Attendee Vicki Benson asked if they provide job placement services and how they differ from DOR services. DeLeon responded that job placement services are provided on a case by case basis and that DOR is able to fund higher education services while Ticket to Success does not.

Attendee Peter Abeytia asked if they work with individuals with physical and Intellectual disabilities. DeLeon responded in the affirmative.

**Action Item: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Member Reyes Acosta shared that the White House Disability Group sent out a statement via email that the ratification of the United Nation's (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was blocked in the senate. The CRPD has been equated to the United States' Americans with Disabilities Act on an international level and the full text can be found online at the United Nations' website.

Member Reyes Acosta asked what kind of action the DAC might be able to do to endorse the passage of the CRPD before the next time this comes up for a vote.

Secretary Simonelli stated that the DAC would not be able to respond directly as their role is purely advisory, however the commission may chose to submit a position paper or recommendation of action to the Mayor, City Manager, and/or the city Council Members, should they wish to take that course of action.

Simonelli noted that both CA senators voted in favor of ratification of the CRPD treaty CRPD and 38 senators voted against it.

Member Reyes Acosta moved that the DAC proceed with coming together with confirmation of their alignment with the CRPD which is being considered by the US congress. Member Randall seconded. Chair Bronson opened the floor for discussion by the commission.

Member Reyes Acosta stated that she would like the commission to develop a position paper supporting the CRPD to be submitted to the City. Member Duarte supported the concept but noted that he does not have the time commitment to be involved with the process. Vice-Chair Pitt asked if this is something that could be posted to the Facebook page to open up for further discussion from the community at large. Member Dailey noted that one to one advocacy with the senators is more effective than group responses and would be interested in having a list of the senators and how they voted. Simonelli stated that the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund has put out all of the necessary information for individual advocacy, information with she will post to the website and Facebook page, as well as send out to commissioners. Attendee Delgado indicated support of the CRPD, based on his travels throughout the world and visiting countries that do not have the level of access that we have in the US.

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Reyes Acosta moved to create a Task Force to gather information and pursue development of a position paper on the CRPD. Member Randall seconded. Chair Bronson opened for discussion by the commission, asking for those interested in working on the Task Force. Members Reyes Acosta and Pitt volunteered. Chair Bronson opened for discussion by the public. Attendee

Delgado indicated interest in working on the Task Force. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bronson appointed Reyes Acosta, Pitt, and Delgado to the task force.

#### **Action Item: Awards Task Force**

Secretary Simonelli stated that the Awards Task force that was established at the October meeting has expired. A new task force will need to be created if the commission would like to continue this work.

Member Randall motioned that an Awards Task force be established. Member Pitt seconded. Chair Bronson opened the floor for discussion from the commission and public. It was asked by unknown person what is the purpose of the task force. Member Randall responded that the task force would be looking at developing the parameters for the current Individual and Organizational awards and investigating the addition of a new award for honoring a City employee or department for their work with people with disabilities. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bronson asked what progress was made by the previous task force. Member Dailey indicated that they have not met and that they will be researching the guidelines that others use for similar awards.

#### **Report: Communications Task Force**

Vice Chair Pitt and Member Randall presented the recommendations for six short-term and four long-term ideas for increased community outreach to encourage involvement in the DAC, anticipating that at least three items from the short term strategies can be accomplished by the end of a six-month period.

Secretary Simonelli responded that some of the short term strategies presented are already in place. There is a resource list available on [www.fresno.gov/dac](http://www.fresno.gov/dac) which is also linked on the city's staff page which was last updated in July 2011. The City does not regularly use YouTube so that is not a tool that is recommended for use by the DAC. In the past Simonelli created a signed and captioned video of the ADA notice through CMAC, which was posted to the CMAC YouTube page and then linked on the DAC page. A Twitter account can be created and administered by Simonelli, as well as linked to the existing Facebook page.

Member Reyes Acosta commended the task force for their work and for the inclusion of the cultural community partners in the long term strategies.

Member Dailey indicated that brochures developed should be made in an accessible large font. He shared that there is a charter school that creates videos and they might be a low cost resource for the DAC to produce videos.

Member Chair noted that there are many cultures that view disabilities negatively, a perception that should be broken. She indicated that the DAC has the opportunity to display the abilities of individuals with disabilities.

Member Chair asked that the commissioners consider how they would like to proceed with these recommendations and to bring those ideas to the next meeting, as there will be an action item to address this on the next meeting agenda.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.